

2013 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week – Safety Bulletin

Developed by: The Valley Safety Officers Committee

June 16-22, 2013

Please use one full work-day to dedicate and discuss topics related to Safety, Health, and FF Survival. We have provided below, resources that you can use for crew/ battalion level discussions and tabletop training.

It's that time of year again to place a spotlight on FF Safety, Health, and Survival. Although Safety, Health, and Survival should be a main focus for all of us every day, this week gives us an opportunity to review some important materials. Please discuss as a crew, or battalion, how we can continue to strive to improve in these areas will be key to the success of this week. The Valley Safety Officers committee has put together some information for your review, in addition to the resources available through the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

The Valley Safety Officers, a sub-committee of the Regional Operations Consistency Committee (ROCC), has membership from all auto-aid partners (labor and management) and involvement State-wide through the Arizona Fire Chiefs (AFG) Safety Section.

After reviewing this year's Safety Bulletin, please take the opportunity to view the *2012 Safety, Health, and Survival Week's Safety Bulletin* and the video produced by the Phoenix Fire Network (PFN).

LODD Reports for Review

Below you will find two LODD NIOSH reports. Please follow the links and review the investigation. After your review, take some time to work through the questions related to the incidents.

NIOSH LODD Report #1: Career Fire Fighter Dies in Church Fire Following Roof Collapse – Indiana [Click here for link to report](#)

Fire Department serious injuries and fatalities are usually the result of several contributing factors that converge to create and/or exacerbate fatal, or near fatal events. In the attached NIOSH fire fighter fatality investigation, "Career Fire Fighter Dies in Church Fire Following Roof Collapse – Indiana" several factors converged to trap and kill a six year career veteran at a church fire.

Please read the investigation with a critical eye toward prevention. Working with your Captains and their crews ask the following; "What could have prevented the death of this fire fighter?" Pay particular attention to the position of Incident Command, the long-span lightweight construction, water supply, the unknown timeline of the fire, and the actual tasks of fire fighters on the interior when searching for the fire.

Some Volume II SOP's that may have contributed to preventing the loss of life on this fire are listed below. This is not an all-inclusive list, but given the circumstances each one may have changed the outcome of this fatal fire.

- 201.05 Incident Safety Officer
- 202.02 Fire ground Factors: Strategy Decision Making
- 202.02 B Fire ground Factors: Strategy
- 202.05 A Thermal Imaging Camera

Provided by Chief Mark Keogh (Mesa Fire & Medical Dept.)

Have a conversation with your crew or battalion and work through the following discussion points:

1. List some operational similarities between the investigated department and your department.
2. What are some manpower and/or deployment differences between this department and your department?
3. List and discuss the fire ground factors associated with this LODD incident.
4. In reference to this LODD incident, what things were done well tactically or operationally?
5. In reference to this LODD incident, what things went wrong tactically or operationally?
6. What are some of the fire ground operational (tactical) differences between this department and your department?
7. How would we deploy to this incident?
8. If you were assigned rescue sector on this call, what would you have done differently and what actions would you take prior to the rescue deployment?
9. What can you and your crew members do to prevent a similar accident or LODD here at home?

NIOSH LODD Report #2: Career fire captain killed, fire fighter and police officer injured at the scene of a motor vehicle crash – Arkansas [Click here for link to report](#)

Often times, Fire Departments focus their attention and training efforts on the Low Frequency/High Risk event model. Some consider vehicle accident scenes to be High Frequency/Low Risk events. Statistics show firefighter deaths and injuries involving vehicle accidents continue to be a problem for the fire service.

Please examine the attached Vehicle Accident LODD NIOSH Report involving the death of a Fire Captain and serious injuries to an Engineer and Police officer. Dedicate some time to review the SOG's, both Volume II Guidelines and any internal policies/procedures you may have within your own jurisdiction.

- 202.16 Car Fires
- 205.07 Apparatus Placement
- 205.07A Safe Parking While Operating In or Near Vehicle Traffic
- 205.08 Driver Safety
- 205.08A Standard Signals For Backing of Fire Department Apparatus
- 203.02 Triage Sector
- 203.03 Extrication Sector
- 203.04 Treatment Sector
- 203.05 Transportation Sector
- 204.05 Natural Gas Emergencies

Have a conversation with your crew or battalion and work through the following discussion points:

1. Are we following regional SOG's/SOP's on our Vehicle Accident Scenes even when they "SEEM" Low Risk?
2. If the incident is not requiring our assistance, are we on the scene unnecessarily?
3. As the Incident de-escalates are we being watchful of traffic hazards, as individuals and as a crew?
4. During the time that you may be waiting for additional resources, are we aware of the hazard zone in and around the scene. I.E. Where are we standing waiting for the Gas Company?

Provided by Chief Kerry Swick (Scottsdale FD)

Awareness Color Codes Article – [Click Here for the Article](#)

Provided by Chief Michael Ong (Phoenix FD)

Current News:

Is our on-going focus on Safety and Wellness working?

NFPA: Firefighter Deaths in 2012 Second Lowest in 35 Years [Click Here to Read Story](#)

Coming Soon!

The VSO committee is working to create a regional Near Miss Reporting System. We are working with the Arizona Fire Chiefs (AFC) to coordinate this process across the state. Please stay posted for information coming out soon.

Additional Resources for your review

The International Association of Fire Chiefs Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week Site Information: [Click Here](#)

Additional Links to Resources for Further Discussion:

[Firefighterclosecalls.com](http://firefighterclosecalls.com)

<http://everyonegoeshome.com/>

Last Year's 2012 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week - Safety Bulletin

[Click here to view the Overhaul Smokeaters video](#)

The VSOs would like to thank you for your time spent this week focusing on FF Safety, Health, and Survival. Be safe and take care of each other.

The Valley Safety Officers

For further information or needs from the VSOs, please contact:

Eric Valliere at evalliere@scottsdaleaz.gov or

Michael Ong at michael.r.ong@phoenix.gov